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Cleveland Museum of Art Unveils New Museum Design by Rafael Viñoly Architects

Dramatic Light-Filled Renovation and Expansion to Showcase World-Renowned Collection

CLEVELAND (Feb. 7, 2003) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), home of one of the world's most important encyclopedic art collections, Thursday unveiled a major expansion and renovation design concept by the acclaimed architect Rafael Viñoly. The dynamic design features a soaring glass canopy that unifies the Museum's campus with vibrant, light-filled spaces. The design for the building project, estimated at $225 million, was presented at a Cleveland Public Art forum *Envisioning a New Cleveland Museum of Art* at the Ohio Theater at Playhouse Square Center as part of an ongoing series of public forums. The project is targeted for groundbreaking in 2004.

Rafael Viñoly's design creates an architectural setting on par with the Cleveland Museum of Art's extraordinary collection of objects spanning 6,000 years. It increases the Museum's size by 43 percent and employs innovative uses of glass, giving physical form to the Museum's commitment to openness to enhance the visitor experience. The expanded galleries will allow a greater percentage of the collection to be on view and provide larger, open spaces to feature the Museum's growing collection of contemporary art.

Over the last 50 years, the Cleveland Museum of Art built three additions to its original 1916 Beaux-Arts building to accommodate its growing audience, programming and collection. Viñoly corrects the navigational and curatorial challenges this mosaic created by designing a cohesive campus with reorganized galleries and more efficient use of space, and reconfigured circulation routes for convenient access to the art on view. The anchors of the new Museum campus are the original 1916 building and a 1971 addition by modernist Marcel Breuer, which will be bridged by two new curvilinear additions and a dramatic courtyard with a cantilevered glass roof.

"The Museum's collection has long been a source of pride for the Cleveland community," said Cleveland Museum of Art Director Katharine Lee Reid. "With Viñoly's brilliant design, we will have a unified building with reconfigured galleries that will allow us to articulate the history of art

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compellingly with a strong focus on interpretation, and bring art into people's lives in new and exciting ways."

"As one of the most ambitious building projects in the city's history, the expansion and renovation of the Cleveland Museum of Art is an investment in our community," said Cleveland Museum of Art President James T. Bartlett. "As such, we will assess its progress at every stage to ensure that we meet our goals in a fiscally responsible manner, particularly in the challenging economic environment of today."

"Our goal with the design is to elevate the whole architectural setting to the level of the art," said Viñoly. "The design reflects the Museum's soul by revealing to visitors the greatness of the collection."

Design Highlights

The *new* Cleveland Museum of Art, Rafael Viñoly's largest museum commission to date, will create a world-class museum to house one of the leading art collections in the United States. Viñoly's design emphasizes the original axis of the Museum growing from the heart of the original 1916 classic marble building. The two new curving wings to the east and west of the 1916 building restore the building's symmetry and feature translucent glass that makes an elegant transition from the horizontal granite strips of the Breuer addition. The reorientation of the building complex connects it to the surrounding Rockefeller Park, providing spectacular views. The 1958 and 1983 building additions will be removed to allow for more cohesive circulation. The full north façade of the 1916 building will be revealed for the first time in more than 40 years.

Joining the components of the Museum complex will be a cantilevered glass canopy forming a 38,000-square-foot great courtyard, which will be the starting point for visitor paths through the Museum. The courtyard will also house large-scale sculpture, and provide an unprecedented year-round space for civic and Museum activities.

The new design provides almost 40,000 square feet of additional gallery space, including new special exhibition space and fully dedicated galleries for all of the Museum's collection areas. The entire Breuer special exhibitions space will be dedicated in the future plan to a new Life-Long Learning Center, which will provide hands-on contextual learning oriented to families. A new, larger special exhibition facility will accommodate larger international exhibitions. A new restaurant, renovated and restored state-of-the-art auditorium, expanded library and underground parking add to the enhanced visitor experience.

Project Background

In 1995 the Cleveland Museum of Art identified the need for expansion and renovation and began a strategic planning process. The Museum hired the New York architecture and urban design firm of Cooper, Robertson & Partners to conduct the comprehensive assessment of the Museum's buildings, and the firm's *Facilities Master Plan* was released in 1999.

In December 2000, the Museum formed an Architect Selection Committee. In September 2001, after narrowing the field of architects from 63 to six, the Museum announced the selection of Rafael Viñoly Architects. Throughout the process, the Museum has included the public in the design evolution, holding a public forum with Viñoly to share the development of the design with the community and elicit feedback.

Rafael Viñoly Architects

Rafael Viñoly Architects is an internationally recognized architectural firm with offices in New York, London and Buenos Aires. Rafael Viñoly oversees the firm's design work and Jay Bargmann administers all of the major projects.

Rafael Viñoly Architects has created elegant, innovative and critically acclaimed designs for a series of important civic project, performing arts centers, educational facilities and museums. Past projects by Viñoly include the Tokyo International Forum; Princeton University's Palmer Memorial Stadium; Samsung Cultural and Education Center, Seoul; and The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia. Among the current projects are the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh; the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center; the Frederick P. Rose Hall, the new home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York, and the newly awarded renovation project for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. Museum projects include the Queens Museum in New York, the Fortabat Museum in Buenos Aires, the Tampa Museum of Art and Duke University's Nasher Museum of Art.

Rafael Viñoly spent his early years in his birthplace, Montevideo, Uruguay, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A serious student of the piano, Mr. Viñoly considered a professional career in music before turning his attention to architecture. While completing his studies at the University of Buenos Aires, he brought together five established colleagues to form the Estudio de Arquitectura, a firm that became one of the largest practices in South America. In 1979, he immigrated to the United States, where he founded the firm of Rafael Viñoly Architects PC in New York City in 1982.

Cleveland Museum of Art

Established in 1916, The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is an important international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.

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